

Appl. No. 10/055,255
Response dated November 20, 2003

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A method of providing content on-demand to a customer having at least one tunable media receiver interconnected with a cable television network, and a computing device separate from said media receiver and in communication with a data network, said method comprising:

receiving from said computing device over said data network, an indicator of an identity of said customer and a request for a media stream;
remotely tuning one of said at least one tunable media receivers over said cable television network, to receive said content over said cable television network on a tuned channel that is not otherwise tunable by said customer;
providing said content over said cable television network for receipt and presentation by said media receiver, when tuned to said tuned channel.

Claim 2 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving an indicator over said data network of a particular one of said at least one media receivers, chosen by said customer for receipt of said content, and wherein said tuning comprises tuning said particular one of said at least one receivers.

Claim 3 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising

determining a distribution node on said cable network in communication with said media receiver.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting to said customer an interface for selecting said content over said data network, from a selection of available content.

Appl. No. 10/055,255
Response dated November 20, 2003

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said tuned channel is identified by a radio frequency channel, and an identifier of a stream carrying said content within said channel.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5, wherein said content comprises a video stream.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 3, further comprising verifying availability of sufficient bandwidth from said distribution node to said customer to deliver said content, prior to said tuning.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 3, further comprising maintaining a database storing an identifier of said customer and an identifier of an associated distribution node.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 8, further comprising maintaining an indicator of available bandwidth for delivery of content on-demand from said distribution node in said database.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9, further comprising updating said indicator of available bandwidth to reflect said providing of said content.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein said user interface is presented as a result of a Java applet or ASP, presented to said computing device.

Claim 12 (original): The method of claim 4, further comprising providing preview data for said available content by way of said data network.

Claim 13 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein said interface comprises an HTML page.

Appl. No. 10/055,255
Response dated November 20, 2003

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving commands controlling provision of an in progress content by way of said data network, and in response thereto controlling said provision of said in-progress content, substantially in real time.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein said commands include one or more commands to pause, advance or rewind said in-progress content.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said providing comprises instructing a media server to stream said content over said cable television network.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising providing said computing device with information regarding playing of in-progress content, for display at said computing device.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17, wherein said information regarding playing includes an indicator of elapsed time.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising maintaining an expiry time for said content, and preventing presentation of said content after said expiry time.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 19, further comprising maintaining a maximum playing time for said content, and preventing presentation after said content has been presented for a time in excess of said maximum playing time.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said computing device comprises a personal digital assistant.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said computing device comprises a cellular phone.

Appl. No. 10/055,255
Response dated November 20, 2003

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 1, wherein said computing device comprises a personal computer.

Claim 24 (original): The method of claim 14, wherein provision of said content may be stopped at one media receiver and resumed at another media receiver.

Claim 25 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein said user interface present available content based on its rating and an access level associated with said customer.


Claim 26 (original): Computer readable medium storing computer executable, that when loaded at content on-demand delivery system including at least one processor, adapt said delivery system to perform the method of claim 1.

Claim 27 (original): A system for providing content on-demand to a customer having at least one tunable media receiver interconnected with a cable television network, and a computing device separate from said media receiver and in communication with a data network, said method comprising:

a server for receiving from said computing device over said data network, an indicator of an identity of said customer and a request for a media stream;
a controller in communication with said server for remotely tuning one of said at least one tunable media receivers over said cable television network, to receive said content over said cable television network on a tuned channel that is not otherwise tunable by said customer;
a media server in communication with said server providing said content over said cable television network for receipt and presentation by said media receiver, when tuned to said tuned channel.

Claim 28 (new): A method of providing content on-demand by way of a cable television network to a customer having a computing device in communication with a packet switched data network, said method comprising:

Appl. No. 10/055,255
Response dated November 20, 2003



presenting a selection of available content on demand at said computing device by way of said packet switched data network;
receiving from said computing device over said packet switched data network, an indicator of an identity of said customer and a request for a media stream;
identifying at least one tunable media receiver interconnected with a cable television network, based on said indicator;
remotely tuning one of said at least one tunable media receiver over said cable television network, to receive said media stream over said cable television network on a tuned channel that is not otherwise tunable by said customer;
providing said media stream over said cable television network for receipt and presentation by said media receiver, when tuned to said tuned channel.

Claim 29 (new): The method of claim 28, further comprising

determining a distribution node on said cable television network in communication with said media receiver, and narrowcasting said content by way of said distribution node.

Claim 30 (new): The method of claim 29, further comprising maintaining an indicator of available bandwidth for delivery of content on-demand from said distribution node and verifying availability of sufficient bandwidth from said distribution node to said customer to deliver said content prior to said tuning.

Claim 31 (new): The method of claim 30, further comprising updating said indicator of available bandwidth to reflect said providing of said content.

Claim 32 (new): The method of claim 30, further comprising providing a user interface at said computing device to control delivery of said content; receiving commands controlling provision of in progress content by way of said data

Appl. No. 10/055,255
Response dated November 20, 2003

network; and in response thereto controlling said provision of said in-progress content, substantially in real time.

Claim 33 (new): A method allowing a customer to receive content on demand, provided by way of a cable television network, comprising:

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- contacting through a computing device, a server by way of a data network;
- obtaining from said server a list of available content on demand offerings;
- placing an order for a content on demand offering by way of said data network, including an identifier of said customer;
- receiving a tuning command at a media receiver associated with said customer and separate from said computing device, over said cable television network;
- receiving a narrowcast media stream at said media receiver;
- decoding said narrowcast media stream at said media receiver;
- presenting said content on demand to said subscriber by way of said media receiver.

Claim 34 (new): The method of claim 33, wherein said data network comprises the internet.

Claim 35 (new): The method of claim 34, wherein said list is provided by way of a world-wide web page.

Claim 36 (new): The method of claim 35, wherein said world-wide web page further provides access to previews of said content-on demand, by way of said data network.

Claim 37 (new): The method of claim 33, further comprising presenting information regarding playing of in-progress content on demand, at said computing device.

Claim 38 (new): The method of claim 35, further comprising providing a user interface at said computing device to allow control of provision of in progress content

Appl. No. 10/055,255
Response dated November 20, 2003

A28

on demand at said media receiver, by way of said data network, substantially in real time.
